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AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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1959 "EUROPEAN TALKS"

This year, as last, a European discussion will take place within the framework of the Vienna Festival Weeks. The dates for the talks have been set for June 17 to 20. The theme for the event will be "The young generation and Europe." The discussion will be held in the municipal council chambers under the chairmanship of Vienna's Mayor Jonas. Austrian President Schaerf will deliver the opening address.

The discussion will then be opened by John Edwards, of England, chairman of the Assembly of the Council of Europe. Other speakers include: Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe Curtis (England) on "European Unity - a Task for Youth;" English Member of Parliament Crossman on "The young Generation and Neutralism;" English Minister Maudling on "Europe's Economic Future;" French Minister Conte; Danish Minister Bomholt on "Educational Problems of Democracy;" Norwegian Deputy Finn Moe on "The Northern Countries and Europe;" Dutch Deputy Duynstee on "The Role of the Smaller Peoples in Europe;" and German Deputy Poehler on "Europe between the World Powers."

These talks will be augmented by lectures of Austrian experts, forum discussions with parliamentary deputies from 10 nations and by question periods.

A \$5,000,000 WINTER SPORTS STADIUM FOR WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Innsbruck, capital of Tyrol, has been chosen as the site of the 1964 Olympic Winter Games at the recent Munich session of the Olympic Committee.

An architectural contest for the best design of an olympic sports arena will be held. The facilities will include an ice skating stadium, an outdoor ice skating rink and an ice speed track (all in Innsbruck).

The indoor and outdoor rink will cover an area of 98,4 feet by 196,8 feet and the race track will be 1312 feet long and 32,8 feet wide.

The stadium will accommodate 10,000 viewers, including 400 seats with desks, typewriters, radios, television and wireless facilities for the press, television and radio representatives.

The whole of Austria welcomes the prospect of Olympic Games at Innsbruck; most Austrians attribute the choice to Austria's strong showing at international winter sports events. (The voting was 49 out of 58 in favor of Innsbruck.)

AUSTRIA JOINS EUROPEAN NUCLEAR RESEARCH GROUP

Austria recently was unanimously elected the 13th member state of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). The organization has its headquarters and research facilities near Geneva. The other 12 members are: West Germany, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Great Britain, Italy, Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

FULL EMPLOYMENT

According to the final figures for May, 1959, the number of registered unemployed is down to 78,146 in the whole of Austria. In practice, this means full employment (the statistics also contain handicapped persons and others not readily employable).

CARDINAL KOENIG HERE FOR THREE WEEK'S VISIT

Franz Kardinal Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna, arrived at New York-Idlewild on June 2. He was met at the airport by Cardinal Spellman, Ambassador Matsch, the Austrian U.N. delegate, and Austrian Consul General Wolf.

Cardinal Koenig has received a Honorary Doctorate of Laws at Notre Dame University (Indiana) on June 7; on the 17th, he will be received by President Eisenhower in the White House. Also on the Cardinal's schedule: Chicago, Milwaukee, Omaha, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Boston.

Cardinal Koenig, who is accompanied by Msgr. Leopold Ungar, director of Caritas in Austria, will depart to Vienna from New York on June 19.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND AUSTRIA

At a recent Trade Union Congress, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, State Secretary in the Austrian Foreign Ministry, discussed *European Economic Cooperation and Austria*. The Secretary said he considered liberalization as the first big step toward European economic cooperation. Another step forward had been the European Payments Union which in his opinion, he said, should not have been dissolved so soon. However, he continued, European economic cooperation had received a hard blow by the breakdown in Free Trade Area negotiations; the Secretary suggested that the technical problems could have been surmounted much more easily than the po-

ECONOMIC SURVEY

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litical questions. Strong forces were at work in the nations of the European Economic Community, he said, which would like to see the other 11 countries forced to join the Community one by one.

Joining the Community is not an easy matter for Austria for several reasons, Dr. Kreisky declared. Even though Austria had only undertaken to follow a policy of military neutrality under the State Treaty, it had also declared that in future it would follow a general policy of neutrality as practiced by Switzerland. As matters stood, Switzerland considered membership in the Community incompatible with its neutrality. Swiss Foreign Minister Petitpierre had recently explained that in such a union the stronger nations would force their will upon the weaker ones. Kreisky said that this statement could not simply be dismissed as unreasonable. On the other hand, he added, a European Free Trade Area would guarantee to each country a high measure of economic and political independence.

The countries outside the European Economic Community should now remain firm, Dr. Kreisky went on, and they should try to gain economic strength. Thus they also would strengthen those forces within the Community which may be counted upon to continue to work for the larger concept of European economic cooperation. He then declared that if no rapid agreement on a Free Trade Area in the old form came about, efforts should be made to find a phased solution which as a first step would provide for some sort of collective agreement among the 11 outsider nations — a form of multilateral association.

In conclusion, the State Secretary said that Europe could stand its ground in the great clash of the world powers only if it remained economically strong. Strength could only be maintained, he said, through far-reaching, inclusive economic integration.

GSCHNITZER ON THE SOUTH TYROL

Prof. Gschnitzer, State Secretary in the Austrian Foreign Office, declared recently that the South Tyrol problem is a task which the Austrian people cannot evade. Concerning the problem of the South Tyrol, he said, Austria cannot confine itself to the role of a passive onlooker. He emphasized that Austria does, indeed, feel obligated to aid the South Tyroleans. Austria's objective of preserving the German-speaking ethnic group in the South Tyrol cannot be achieved all at once but only by constant effort, Gschnitzer stated. He added: "We shall have to work on it if we want to preserve this ethnic group. If we have the stamina, we shall be able to preserve it. This ethnic group is wholly sound; it has a high birth rate, a higher one than that of the Italians. What we must do is to give it political support. We must give it the assurance that we stand behind it and we must aid it culturally and economically as well as politically. In doing so, we may base whatever action we take on our rights and on the existing agreement."

Gschnitzer also noted that the Italians were not very cooperative partners in the agreement on the South Tyrol. Be that as it may, the Tyroleans, and particularly the South Tyroleans, were a tenacious and persevering sort, Gschnitzer said.

AUSTRIA'S CATHOLICS

Of the 6,993,831 inhabitants of Austria 89.9% or 6,289,049 are Roman Catholics. Since more people left the Church than entered it, a small increase in the Catholic population is probably based on the fact that Catholic families have more children than others.

The 6,289,049 Catholics live in 2,861 parishes and receive religious care from 4,252 priests of whom 3,192 are secular priests and 1,060 are members of specific orders. Compared with 1951, the number of parish priests has decreased somewhat, namely from 4,382 to 4,252. The ratio of of priests to the number of Catholics was one priest to 1,390 persons; now it is one to 1,480.

The census of Catholic churchgoers which is taken twice each year — on a Sunday during Lent and again in fall — showed an average of 2,073,000, or 32% of all baptized Catholics. The percentage has hardly changed since 1951 when it was 33%.

Communion recipients numbered 51,194,000. If this number is divided by that of those attending mass, the average churchgoer received 25 communions a year (as against 18 in 1951).

Official statistics show that in 1957, 56,650 marriages took place. Church statistics show 43,656 Church weddings, including 41,459 purely Catholic marriages and 2,197 mixed marriages. If the non-Catholic participation in civil marriages is deducted from the total figure (10.1%) and if mixed marriages are counted only half, the result shows that 83.5% of all those baptized in the Catholic faith are married in the Church. In 1951 the percentage was 80%.

Official statistics recorded 118,895 births in 1957. Church statistics showed 114,311 baptisms (not counting 1,633 of those more than one year old). In percentages, this amounts to 96.1% (1951 — 95.6%), or considerably more than the Catholic share in the total population. Church statistics also showed that among the 114,311 baptisms were 4,593 of mixed marriages and 687 of children of non-Catholic parents.

Austrians send 98% of their children to religious classes although no disadvantage accrues to parents who do not insist on religious instruction for their children.

Of the 89,521 who died in 1957 and of whom 80,479 were Catholics, 78,070 (97%) were given Church burials.

Statistics show that 1,304 were converted to Catholicism during 1957 (848 from Protestantism) and 4,120 returned to the Church. Compared with 1951, both figures have decreased (1951 — 1,800 and 5,317, respectively). On the other hand, 8,935 left the Church in 1957, as compared with 13,402 in 1951).

During 1957, 156 priests were newly ordained in Austria, among them 94 secular priests and 62 who are members of specific orders. In 1951, the numbers were 92 and 57. 112 men and 441 women entered religious orders in 1957 as against 113 and 438, respectively, in 1951.

AUSTRIAN BANK STOCK RISES

The Vienna Stock Exchange recently quoted higher prices for the common and preferential stock of two major Austrian banks, the Creditanstalt and the Laenderbank.

TRADE DEFICIT DOWN 37%

The newest monthly report of the Austrian National Bank shows that the payments balance during the first quarter of 1959 was more favorable than at the same time of last year. Since Austria's imports declined by 421 million schillings or 6% but exports by merely 61 million schillings or 1%, the deficit in the trade balance was reduced by 360 million schillings or 37% to 623 million schillings. (About 26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) Even if the free reparation shipments to the Soviet Union of 321 million schillings which are included in the export figures are not considered, the commercial trade balance deficit was lower during the first quarter of 1959 than during the first quarter of 1958.

AUSTRIAN POWER EXPORTS UP 42%

Preliminary reports show that Austria's total public electricity supply amounted to 2,664,000,000 kilowatt hours during the first quarter of 1959, or 13.4% more than during the same period of last year. Hydro-electrically generated power increased by 16.9% to 1,883,000,000 kilowatt hours, while the production of thermal power plants went up 5.8% to 781 million kilowatt hours.

During the report period, power exports rose by 42.44% to 242 million kilowatt hours. At the same time, power imports decreased by 60.2% to 68 million kilowatt hours.

Domestic power consumption, excluding storage requirements but including transmission losses, amounted to 2,360,000,000 kilowatt hours, or 5.7% more than during the first three months of 1958.

AUSTRIA'S TOURIST TRAFFIC EXPANDING

The rising trend in the statistics on tourist accommodations continued through last January. Complete figures for that month, published by the Federal Chamber of Commerce, show that 1,359,840 guests registered for overnight stays. Compared with January, 1957, this year's figures show an average increase of 23%. Austrians accounted for an increase of 17% while foreign visitors must be credited with 28%.

More than half (50.8%) of all foreign registrations took place in the Tyrol. Next came Vorarlberg with 22.1% and Salzburg with 13%. Austria's capital Vienna was fourth with 8.1%.

In overnight registrations of Austrian citizens, Lower Austria took first place in January with 23.2%. Styria was second with 21.9% and Salzburg third with 17.5%.

The Federal Republic of Germany accounted for 52% of all foreign overnight registrations. Great Britain, the Netherlands, France, the United States and Italy followed in that order.

During January, 1959, 668,168 foreigners came to Austria by motor (25% more than a year ago). 256,267 foreign visitors came by train, also a 25% increase. Planes brought 4,512 foreign guests.

AUSTRIA MADE GOOD USE OF ITS ERP CREDITS

The counterpart credits granted Austria under the European Recovery Program played, as is well known, a tremendous part in the reconstruction of the Austrian economy. However, the credit demand has not yet been satisfied. Because of the projected European integration and the worldwide wave of automatization, Austria's commerce and industry need numerous new investments which can hardly be realized to the extent necessary without ERP funds. The delay in freeing further credits which has lasted more than a year impedes greatly the efficiency and modernization of plants and businesses.

How important the ERP credits are may be seen from the fact that by December 31, 1958, no less than 18.5 billion schillings (about 26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) went from this source into the Austrian economy as investment funds. About half of this amount — namely 9.3 billion schillings — benefited commerce and industry. Included in the latter amount are, however, credits for the expansion of Austria's electric power economy. This item accounted for more than a third of the total sum put at the disposal of commerce and industry, namely 3.3 billion schillings.

A breakdown by business branches shows that in the industrial sector the second largest recipient of ERP means was the iron and steel industry with 1.5 billion schillings. Others included the paper industry with one billion schillings, the metal products industry with 732 million schillings, the coal mining industry with 633 million schillings, the textile industry with 541 million schillings, the variegated metal industry with 359 million schillings, the chemical industry with 329 million schillings, the woodworking industry with 246 million schillings, the electrical industry with 205 million schillings, the glass and ceramics industry with 67 million schillings, the stone cutting industry with 66 million schillings, the graphic trade with 28 million schillings, the leather and shoe industry with 26 million schillings and the foodstuff industry with 26 million schillings and the mining industry (not including coal mining) with 10 million schillings.

Since these statistics do not differentiate between trades and industries, credits for the separate branches include funds for the various trades within them. Moreover, 210 million schillings in small credits benefited the trades. The remainder of the total amount was used in normal credits for diverse other branches.

DIRECT FLIGHTS CANADA-AUSTRIA

The first passenger plane of the Canadian Trans-Canada Air Lines recently landed at Schwechat Airport. It was the initial flight on the new Montreal to Vienna route. Scheduled flights will take off weekly. Among the first-flight passengers were the Austrian ambassador to Canada, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian Consul general in Montreal, Mr. Loewenheim, and the undersecretary of state of the Canadian Foreign Office, M.J. Holmes.

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AUSTRIA'S ECONOMY SURVEYED

THE LABOR FORCE

The strong seasonable renewal of the Austrian economy appears to be aided in recent weeks by general market conditions. Extraordinary requirements in the labor market are a point in fact. Austria's economy recently gave work to 66,200 new workers after having employed 45,300 new persons only last March. In March and April together, 36,500 more persons were given employment than during the same period in 1958. The number of gainfully employed rose to 2,224,300 in April and was 48,500 higher than last year while the number of registered unemployed declined by 67,200 to a total of 100,400. Unemployment at the end of April was 24,000 lower than the year before, and the ratio of unemployment declined to 4.3% (as against 5.4% in April, 1958).

At the end of April, Austrian labor offices listed 31,800 open jobs, roughly 2,000 more than last year and about the same number as in April, 1955. Employment offers for women rose above those of April, 1958. The clothing industry which currently is enjoying an upswing, and the tourist industry which is looking toward a new record season, are especially interested in female help.

During the first half of May, the number of registered unemployment again declined: by 11,300 to 89,100. At the middle of May, there were 15,000 less unemployed than at the middle of May, 1958.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Industrial production which since the fall of 1958 stagnated on a high level has shown a certain rising trend in recent months. The average index of industrial production was 1.9% higher in February and 2% higher in March than last year. (In January, it had still been 2.9% lower). According to the Institute's survey, production and demand should have risen a little more in April. According to a special survey on the development of order and stock inventories in the finished goods industry, order inventories have no further declined since the beginning of the year and production need no longer be stocked; slowly growing demands resulted even in a slight rise of production.

These results are true only for industry as a whole, however. Considerable differences arise if industry is broken down into branches. Generally speaking, a slight economic revival is felt rather more in consumer goods industries (chemicals, leather and shoes, textiles, tobacco) than in the basic industries.

POWER

Consumption of energy during March was generally weak. During that month, 18% less coal was sold than in March, 1958, because industry, communications systems, steam power plants and gas plants limited their orders considerably.

This survey is a digest of a report which appeared in the May, 1959 issue of "Monthly Reports of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research." Editor.

Because of the mild winter, less coal was consumed in households and the coal trade has a considerable surplus stock at its disposal. During March also, 4% less electric current was used than last year. Only the large-scale contract consumers used more current; all others used less. On the other hand, consumption of natural gas (plus 47% as compared with March, 1958), gasoline (plus 28%) and Diesel oil (plus 47%) developed very favorably. Industry, above all, consumed almost three times as much natural gas than in March, 1958, because numerous new pipelines and connections were taken in operation. Electric power plants and gas plants also increased their demand for natural gas. The great increase in gasoline consumption is a result of continued motorization.

While domestic power production in March was 3% higher than last year with a total of 859 million kilowatt hours, 15% less current was exported (99 million kilowatt hours) and 63% less was imported (29 million kilowatt hours). Electric energy was favored by the high level of rivers. Water-driven power plants were able to deliver 20% more current than last year. Steam-driven plants produced 1% less. Little of surplus current in collecting power plants was used so that it should be possible within the coming months to export valuable current to West Germany and Switzerland. Early in April, the first natural gas-driven power plant in Austria (Neusiedl-on-Zaya, Lower Austria) started operations with a capacity of 21,000 kilowatt hours.

IMPORTS

Imports rose from February to March by 12% to 2,320,000,000 schillings. Compared with last year, imports were 2% higher by volume but 6.5% lower by value. While fuel imports dropped in March with 228 million schillings to the lowest point since August, 1955 (in the first quarter of 1959 almost a fifth less fuel was imported than the year before) and while raw material imports (not including a few industrial raw materials) remained at a low level, imports of finished goods gained strongly. It is particularly noteworthy that the import of investment goods, especially of machinery and means of communication, was considerably greater in March than last year. In the first quarter of 1959, 16% more machinery was imported than in the first quarter of 1958. On the other hand, less textiles and metal products were bought from foreign countries, partly because of demand changes and partly because of changes in the tariff structure. The regional distribution of imports has changed -- because of higher participation in finished goods imports and lower participation in relatively lower fuel and raw materials imports -- in favor of the Federal Republic of Germany, while the share of the United States declined strongly. In the first quarter of 1959, 42% of the imports came from West Germany (in 1958 - 37%) and only 6% from the United States (1958 - 12%). The share of the Soviet Union rose from 1% to 3%.

EXPORTS

The new economic upswing in Western Europe will probably aid the currently still stagnating export industries within a reasonable time. In reply to another survey, industries reported in April for the first time that export orders had been higher than a year ago. The demand of Austrian manufacturers for raw materials and basic materials now runs more and more parallel to current consumption. During the first quarter of 1959, raw material imports exclusive of coal almost reached the level of last year. Purchases of construction materials, woods and metals rose. Orders for rolled steel materials were 3% higher than last year. While exports of commercial rolled steel goods could be held on a high level because the demand for tins was least hit by the international steel crisis, exports of refined steel still stagnate. This is of particular importance because of the high value of refined steel.

The improved economic situation in the United States which influences order and sales activities around the world has already led to a noticeable sales increase in this market. Austrian exports to the United States rose from 223 million schillings in the first quarter of 1958, to 381 million schillings in the first quarter of 1959. Similar, though less strong export expansion could be the result of the economic improvement in Western Europe and in other countries.

THE BALANCE

The deficit in the trade balance was in March (with 245 million schillings) 36 million schillings higher than in February, but 144 million schillings lower than in March, 1958. It was more than covered by the receipts from foreign tourist traffic (304 million schillings) which this year were 20% higher than last year. Since, moreover, capital was imported through foreign purchases of Federal Loan bonds, gold and foreign currency deposits in the National Bank rose in March by 401 million schillings to a total of 17,6 billion schillings. During April, currency reserves increased by a further 197 million schillings even though a seasonal small reduction was to be expected.

FINANCE

The credit institutes continue to be very liquid; their legal deposits in the National Bank amounted to 5,1 billion schillings at the end of April. But not only the credit apparatus but the entire economy seems to be very liquid. This may be concluded from the slowing down of speed of money circulation. This means that business, at least in the first phase of revitalization, is able to use its own financial means in order to finance expansion of production. Business used their checking account deposits, above all, for such financing.

Last April 23, the bank rate was lowered from 5% to 4½%. The effect upon the credit market*) will be visible only in the coming months. Experience shows that the demand for credits is little influenced by a reduction in the cost of credit. A fairly large percentage of credit takers was able to obtain more favorable conditions even before the official reduction because the high liquidity sharpened competition among

credit institutions. The lowering of the bank rate thus remained behind the development of the money market.

On the capital market, it is expected that the present interest rate will be continued. Since new emissions of firm-interest securities will carry lower interest as of the date of the bank rate lowering (6½% instead of 7%), securities have become less attractive in comparison with savings deposits.

WAGES AND PRICES

The domestic price level showed a slightly rising trend. The wholesale index rose from the middle of March to the middle of April by .6% (and thus was 3,2% higher than last year); the new consumer price index (for an average worker's household) gained about .7% with nearly three quarters of the rise due to seasonal products. On the other hand, coal prices dropped because the import prices for certain types of Ruhr coal became cheaper and consumers were given special rebates for stocking domestic and foreign coal. The Price-Wage Commission set seasonal limits to prices for fruits and vegetables which generally will continue with the aid of the necessary policies respecting imports and exports. The commission has agreed to an increase in construction prices (by a maximum of 2%). Other demands for higher prices, among them for iron, paper and furniture, are still under consideration.

Wage changes were small. They were limited to smaller occupational groups and even here mainly to vacation pay or special raises. In many collective bargaining agreements, the minimum hourly wages were raised because of the shortened work week. The Tariff wage index of the Institute remained unchanged in April and was 4.7% higher than last year.

The gross hourly income of Viennese workers during the first quarter of 1959 (according to the Institute's wage statistics) was 5.5% higher than last year because of the effects of the new shorter work week. Weekly income increased less strongly: 1.7% gross and 1.4% net (for married workers with two children, including dependency credits).

Sales in the retail trade in March were 15% higher (10% per sales day) than in February and 7% higher (11% per sales day) than in March, 1958.

NEW INDEX OF CONSUMER PRICES

After several years' planning, the Austrian Central Statistical Bureau recently established new indexes of consumer prices on the basis of 100 points for 1958. Previously the 100 point standard represented the 1938 price level. The new indexes were computed in cooperation with the Institute for Economic Research, the Chamber of Commerce and representatives of labor. Two new indexes, used for the first time in March, 1959, were:

"A consumer price index for an urban worker's family of average size and with an average income;" and

"A consumer price index for an urban worker's household of four persons and with an average income."

NEW WORLD BANK LOAN FOR AUSTRIA

Two officials of the World Bank in Washington are expected in Vienna this week to discuss a new World Bank

*) Ref. "AUSTRIAN INFORMATION" XII/10, May 30.

credit of about \$10 million with the Austrian Finance Ministry. The loan is to go to the Austrian Investment Credit Corporation. The Austrian cabinet earlier authorized the Finance Minister to undertake the negotiations and to pledge the government's willingness to guarantee the loan. The new loan, as the previous one, is intended to finance a large number of modernization and efficiency projects. (The 1958 World Bank loan amounted to \$10,770,000).

TEXTILE INDUSTRY IS AUSTRIA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER

The textile industry continues to be the largest employer in Austria. Although last year the economic situation was much to the disadvantage of the industry — which had to limit employment considerably from 80,500 persons in December, 1957, to 72,400 in December, 1958 — it still employs 12.6% of all industrial workers. However, its share in total industrial employment decreased by 13.8% compared with December, 1957.

Second place in employment figures was taken by the mining and iron-producing industries. Together they employed 11.9% of all industrial workers in December, 1958 (12.4% in December, 1957). Their personnel decreased from 72,000 to 68,400. Next came the machine, steel and iron construction industries with 10.7% (as against 10.5% the year before). Their employment figures went from 61,300 down to 60,900 persons.

The following statistics illuminate the employment picture in the other industries:

Foodstuffs — 8.9% of industrial employment as against 8.8% the year before. Employment rose from 51,100 to 51,500.

Electrical industry — 8.2% as against 7.5%. Employment rose from 42,900 to 43,300.

Chemicals — 7.3% as against 7.1%. Employment rose from 41,400 to 42,000.

Stone cutting and ceramic industries — 5% (no change). Employment decreased from 28,900 to 28,500.

Clothing — 4.4% as against 4.3%. Employment increased from 25,100 to 25,400.

Vehicles — 4.4% as against 4.2%. Employment up from 24,400 to 25,200.

The paper-producing industry employed 3.6% of all industrial workers in 1958 as against 3.7% in 1957. Employment dropped from 21,500 to 20,900.

Other industries:

Woodworking — 3.8% (3.6%) up from 21,100 to 21,800

Leather — 2.5% (2.5%) down from 14,500 to 14,100

Petroleum — 2.2% (2.1%) up from 12,444 to 12,447

Foundries — 1.8% (1.9%) down from 11,300 to 10,400

Glass — 1.7% (1.7%) up from 9,600 to 9,800

Paper (Manuf.) — 1.5% (1.4%) up from 8,300 to 8,400

Metals — 1.4% (1.4%) up from 8,100 to 8,200

NEW ALUMINUM ALLOY MADE IN AUSTRIAN AND WEST GERMAN PLANTS

According to information released at the recent conference on foundry techniques in Leoben, Styria, a new aluminum alloy used in casting processes which has been patented in several countries under the trade name of *Durfondal* is in production in Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ONE OF AUSTRIA'S BIGGEST

Production in Austria's chemical industry gained another 4% in 1958. While this was a slower rate of increase compared with 1957 and 1956 when it amounted to 13.2% and 9.8% respectively, the chemical industry in 1958 reached a production value of 8.1 billion schillings and thus retained third place among industries generally. (About 26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.)

The share of the chemical industry in the total production value of all industrial branches amounted to about 10% in 1958. It was surpassed only by the foodstuff industry with 13% and the textile industry with 12%. By volume, the production of the chemical industry increased by approximately 6% over 1957.

The development of certain types of production in the chemical industry is especially interesting. Thus, the relatively young synthetics industry has experienced an interesting upswing since 1954. Production of synthetic materials and merchandise made from it increased from 9,772 tons in 1954 to 30,000 tons last year, a gain of 205%.

Considerable production increases also took place during the same period in organic and inorganic chemicals (from 284,856 tons to about 400,000 tons), fertilizers (from 568,165 to 864,000 tons) and synthetic wool (from 36,738 to about 46,300 tons). Finally, it is notable that the index of Austria's chemical production stood at 170 at the end of 1957 (100 = 1953) while chemical production of all the other OEEC countries increased only by about 50% during the same period.

OIL PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT A MAJOR EXPORT ITEM

Leading Austrian engineering firms produced oil drilling and conveying equipment worth 136 million schillings last year. (About 26 schillings equal one dollar.) About 90% of this production was exported to 20 different countries, especially to South America. Austrian-made oil production equipment meets ever requirement of the most advanced technology in this branch. Deliveries included, among other items, rotary drilling installations permitting operations to a depth of more than 1,500 feet. A firm in the United States was recently licensed to manufacture this equipment.

AUSTRIAN OIL PRODUCTION DIPS

Austria's total oil production during the first quarter of 1959, amounting to 618,148 tons, dropped 16% below the level recorded for the first three months of 1958. The Austrian Petroleum Administration's share in this production amounted to 572,480 tons or 93%. During the first quarter year of 1958, the Administration produced 94% of the total.

INDUSTRY IS LARGEST DOMESTIC COAL CONSUMER

Last year industry was again the largest consumer of domestic coal. By taking delivery of 3.5 million tons of Austrian soft coal, industry accounted for more than half of the total soft coal mine output (6.5 million tons). Electric power plants came next with 1.4 million tons.

AUSTRIAN WINE PRODUCERS ORGANIZE

A trade mark association for the protection of Austrian vintage wines and the promotion of quality in wine production was recently organized in Vienna. The new organization announced that it will hold Wine Fairs at regular intervals.

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GAS CONSUMPTION UP

The number of gas consumers in Austria continued to grow during 1958 — from 765,426 to 784,585. In Lower Austria the St. Poelten plant was converted to a methane mixture. This process lowered the use of coal by 18% to a total of 424,500 tons. At the same time, the total gas production of 590,1 million cubic meters was 2% higher than in 1957. (One cubic meter equals 1.308 cubic yards. Ed.) The coke production was reduced from 408,302 tons to 324,598 tons and tar production decreased from 21,959 tons to 17,221 tons. A new investment program is being planned by the gas companies.

Favorable progress also continued at the Vienna Gas Works. The number of consumers rose from 648,000 to 661,000 and gas sales, amounting to 503 million cubic meters, were about the same as in 1957. Hard coal use and production decreased in favor of natural gas during the report year.

COFFEE, TEA, COCOA IMPORTS RISE

In 1958, Austria imported 8,979.2 tons of green coffee valued at 267.4 million schillings. (About 26 schillings equal one dollar). The 1958 imports were 8.2% higher than those of 1957. However, the value of the imported coffee was 3.7% less than in previous years due to the fact that coffee prices fell beginning November, 1957. Consumption of coffee increased again in 1958, when it amounted to 1.28 kilograms per capita of the Austrian population as against 1.19 kilograms in 1957. (One kilogram equals 2.2 U.S. pounds).

Austrian tea imports in 1958 showed an increase in volume of 6.8% to 587.2 tons and an increase in value by 2.3% to 22.4 million schillings. The per capita consumption in Austria is considerably lower than that of other countries.

World market prices for cocoa beans showed a rising trend last year resulting in the fact that while imports rose by 17% in volume to 8,420.6 tons, the value increase amounted to 24%. Total value reached 203.8 million schillings.

DEMAND FOR MORE ADVERTISING

The International Advertising Association recently held its annual convention at the Vienna Hofburg. A large number of reports were given by members from all parts of the globe and discussion groups met on various subjects. Austria's use of advertising for tourist traffic was mentioned by several speakers as an example of excellent promotion on the international level.

A speaker from the Netherlands demanded expansion of the use of commercials in European television. He said that Europe had too few TV stations which permitted advertising. The president of the Association, Ernest Pearl of England, declared that prospective buyers could be sold much more easily by eye than by ear. He demanded more commercials as well as more movie advertising.

Convention chairman Fred Ungart of Austria said that Austria would in future push advertising considerably more than it had done in the past.

WENNERGREN FOUNDATION SPONSORING ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES AT WARTENSTEIN CASTLE

During the coming summer, the *Wennergren Foundation* will conduct the following international symposia at its European headquarters in Wartenstein castle near Gloggnitz, Austria: "The Application of Quantitative Methods in Archeology," "Social Life of Early Men," "Rural People of the Mediterranean," and "Stability and Change in Thai Culture." These symposia will be attended by the world's leading experts in these fields. At a fifth symposium, Austrian physical anthropologists, ethnologists and pre-historians will discuss the "Theory and Practice of the Cooperation of the three Anthropological Disciplines with each other."

The European center of the Wenner Gren Foundation in Austria, which was opened in August 1958, will also serve as headquarters for the editorial staff of a monumental new series of publications to be called "Current Anthropology." This publication is to achieve, and to facilitate, scholarly communication in the field of anthropology. "Current Anthropology" will be published four times a year, each issue comprising approximately 400 pages. Now that Russia's anthropologists have agreed to submit their contributions in English, the scope of this project has become worldwide and its success appears to be assured.

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE SET



Austrian Postal Authorities recently honored the Congress of the International Hunting Council, which met in Vienna a few weeks ago, with the issuance of a set of four commemorative stamps. The stamps have face values of 1 schilling, 1.50, 2.40 and 3.50 schillings. They depict a grouse (1), a buck (1.50), a boar (2.40), and a stag, hind and calf (3.50). First day of issue was May 14, 1959. Colors are magenta, blue gray, greenish blue and brown respectively. Printed by the Austrian State Printing Office, they have been issued in quantities of three million each, excepting the one schilling stamp of which five million have been issued.



THE FIRST 15 YEARS OF ALPBACH

The Austrian College recently held its first general meeting in Alpbach, Tyrol, scene of the annual "European Forum". College President Otto Molden delivered the opening address before representatives of all Austrian college communities and members of the national committees of other European states. A Tyrolean representative said that the Tyrol was honored that the center of the world-wide activities of the European Forum was a quiet Tyrolean mountain village of Alpbach.

In his speech, Molden recalled the 15 years of work which had gone into making the Alpbach institution what it was today. He called the 80 persons who in 1945 met for the first time in Alpbach to start the college "the advance guard of the European Forum." This advance guard, he said, was followed by 200 to 300 other persons every year by 1948, 600 by 1952, 1,000 by 1955, and 1,100 since 1956. These people, he added, came from 34 different countries and spoke 20 different languages.

The team of the first year, Molden said, had become an international faculty of teachers which included not only numerous European experts but also many from overseas. Altogether, 366 lectures have been given by scientists, statesmen, economists and artists, and more than 200 artists participated in concerts and other stage performances.

AUSTRIA'S GRAPHITE AN EXCELLENT ATOMIC MODERATOR

Recent investigations have shown that Austrian graphite — which exists in great quantities estimated at about six million tons — is considered to be the best raw material for the moderation of atomic reactors. Austria's graphite is the purest of all the graphite found in the world today. At most 500 graphite deposits were examined all over the world, and Austria's graphite turned out to be the only one usable for atomic reactors. In addition, it is cheaper than synthetic graphite.

Using Austrian graphite, it should be possible to bring down the cost of atomic reactor construction on an international level, because considerably less raw material will be necessary and safeguards can be simplified. It has been estimated that about 7,000 tons of graphite may be exploited from Austrian deposits annually.

NEW LISZT FILM

Filming started recently in Schoenbrunn Castle on Columbia's new life of Franz Liszt which will be known as "A Magic Flame." According to the producers, the book generally sticks to facts. The two leading parts are played by Dick Bogarde, an English actor who portrays Liszt and Capucine, a French actress who recreates Caroline von Wittgenstein, Liszt's first lady friend.

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